

Variety-  
The V Sip Manor House  
Woodland Avenue  
Westfield, Union County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-265

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20-WESF  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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N.J.  
20-WESAI

The Sip Manor House  
~~Woodland Avenue~~ WYCHWOOD ROAD.  
Westfield, Union County, New Jersey

Owner: Wychwood Corporation

Date of Erection: 1664

Architect:

Builder: Nicholas Varleth

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brownstone  
and trap rock, partly  
stucco; gables siding

Interior walls - plaster,  
panel

Roof - pitch with dormers

Historical Data:

This house originally stood on the corner of Bergen Avenue and Newkirk Street in Jersey City. In 1929 the building was carefully moved by the ~~Wychwood Corporation~~ to Westfield about eighteen miles from its original site, and was reerected and slightly modified, UNDER SUPERVISION OF ARTHUR R. ROLF, AND SCULPTOR OF BERNHART E. MULLER, ARCHITECT.

The Sip Manor was the oldest house standing in Bergen County. It stood on land granted by Peter Stuyvesant to Nicholas Varleth and Balthazar Bayard on January 3, 1662. This title was later confirmed by Governor Carteret, August 10, 1671. The date of erection is 1664. The builder was Nicholas Varleth.

Varleth was an important member of the Colony. He came to New Netherlands in 1652. He was commissary, Ambassador to Virginia, Peace Commissioner, Captain of the Militia of Bergen, Communipaw, Ahasymus, and Hoboken, member of the Court of Bergen, and member of Governor Carteret's council.

The last three appointments were made in 1665 showing that he had settled in New Jersey at that time.

At the death of Varleth, the property passed to Bayard. In 1681 Tadeus Michielson became the owner, and then Jacob Leuby. In 1697 the property passed from the Leuby heirs to Jan A. Sip. It was still occupied by the members of the Sip family as late as 1910.

The above facts are taken from Rosalie Bailey and contradicts the nice story told by Mills. If Peter Stuyvesant visited the Sip Manor House, as Mills declares, he must have visited Nicholas Varleth who was a sufficiently important man to warrant a visit by Stuyvesant.

During the Revolutionary War Bergen was frequently visited by foraging parties. In 1776 Lord Cornwallis spent a night in the old Sip Manor. It is stated that Lord Cornwallis hanged three spies on a tree near the house the morning after staying with the Sip family.

Bibliography:

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